THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d) The Government has been receiving representations from time to time from various quarters including trade and industry to review, reformulate or amend the labour laws. Amendment to labour laws is a continuous process to be carried out with reference to problems faced in the field, keeping in view basic parametres such as labour protection, productivity increase, modernisation of industry, Social Security etc. At present Ministry of Labour has set up a Bipartite Committee consisting of representatives from Employers' Organisations and Central Trade Unions Organisations to make specific proposals for a comprehensive Industrial Relations Law.

Trade Union demand for national minimum wage for Agricultural and Unorganised Labour

983. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently received demands from Trade Union leaders to the effect that a National Minimum Wage be fixed for the agricultural and unorganised labour at Rs. 60/- per day;

(b) whether the Trade Union Leaders have also requested for free compulsory education for children and setting up of a National Labour Commission for a good industrial relations; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) The Government have received suggestions from various Trade Unions from time to time to fix national minimum wage for the agricultural and the unorganised labour and also for the setting up of National Commission on Labour.

(c) Because of the diversity of economic and geographical conditions in different regions in the country it has not been found practicable to fix a national minimum wage for the country as a whole. As an alternative, efforts are being made to reduce differences in minimum wages in contiguous regions and also to have a national floor level minimum wage.

सरकारी क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों में स्वैच्छिक सेवानिवृत्ति लेने वाले कर्मचारी

984. **श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ला:** क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) 31 जनवरी, 1997 की स्थिति के अनुसार सरकारी क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों में कितने कर्मचारियों ने स्वैच्छिक सेवानिवृत्ति ली थी;

(ख) गुजरात में कितनी कंपनियों ने सेवा से हटाए गए अथवा सेवानिवृत्ति कर्मचारियों को भविष्य निधि तथा उपदान की राशि का भुगतान नहीं किया है, जैसाकि कर्मचारियों द्वारा क्षेत्रीय भविष्य निधि आयुक्त को शिकायत की गई है;

(ग) इसे वसूल करने के लिए भविष्य निधि प्राधिकारियों द्वारा कदम उठाए गए हैं; और

(घ) उक्त अवधि तक जिला-वार कितने कर्मचारियों को सेवानिवृत्ति लाभों का भुगतान कर दिया गया है?

श्रम मंत्री (श्री एम. अरूणाचलम): (क) से (घ) केन्द्रीय सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र उपक्रमों के 100205 कर्मचारी ऐसे थे जिन्होंने राष्ट्रीय नवीकरण निधि की सहायता से स्वैच्छिक सेवानिवृत्ति योजना का लाभ उठाया। उपदान संदाय अधिनियम, 1972 के अंतर्गत उपदान की अदायगी का दायित्व नियोजन का है। अत: जब कभी भी उपदान की अदायगी न किए जाने की शिकायतें प्राप्त होती हैं तो उन्हें समुचित कार्रवाई के लिए संबंधित मंत्रालय की जानकारी में लाया जाता है। जहां तक भविष्य निधि का संबंध है, ऐसी सूचना है कि क्षेत्रीय भविष्य निधि आयुक्त को इस संबंध में किसी शिकायत के बारे में कोई जानकारी नहीं है।

Unemployed persons registered in Employment exchanges in Punjab

985. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed persons registered in different employment exchanges in State of Punjab as on 31st January, 1997; and

(b) the details of handicapped persons, SCs/STs, widows, ex-servicemen, terrorist affected persons etc., registered in the various employment exchanges of the State?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The number of job-

seekers, all of whom may not necessarily be unemployed, who were on the live register of Employment Exchanges in Punjab as on 31.12.1996 were 5.40 lakh.

(b) As per information available the number of Scheduled Castes and handicapped job-seekers, all of whom may not necessarily be unemployed, who were on the live register of the Employment Exchanges in Punjab as on 31.12.1995 (latest available) were 155.5 and 8.7 thousand respectively. Only seven Scheduled Tribe job-seekers are registered in the Employment Exchanges in Punjab.

Information on widows, ex-servicemen and terrorist affected job-seekers etc. is not maintained.

Job scheme for educated unemployed from poor families

986. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating a job scheme for the educated unemployed from poor families; and

(b) if so, by when it will be started?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) Employment is a thrust area of the Eight Five Year Plan. The Plan envisages a strategy for accelerating growth of productive employment opportunities in the country, both for the educated and the uneducated, on the basis of faster growth of employment intensive sectors, sub-sectors and activities. In addition, the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana for providing self-employment opportunities to the unemployed educated youth is being implemented in the country.

भविष्य निधि और पेंशन राशियों का निवेश

987. **श्री सोमपाल: क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:**

(क) क्या सरकार भविष्य निधि और पेंशन राशियों को यूनिट ट्रस्ट, सरकारी क्षेत्र के उद्योगों के ऋण पत्रों और सावधि जमाराशियों में लगाने पर विचार कर रही है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस योजना का पूरा विवरण और औचित्य क्या है?

श्रम मंत्री (श्री एम. अरूणाचलम): (क) और (ख) भविष्य निधि/पेंशन निधि के निवेश के स्वरूप के पुनरीक्षण का एक प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है।

Schemes and Programmes for Abolishing Child Labour from Hazardous Industry and Mines

988. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJI-RAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the names of schemes and programme launched since April, 1996, for abolishing child labour from hazardous jobs, industries and mines, in pursuance of Government's declared policy; and

(b) the progress so far made therein, scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) A major programme was launched in August, 1994 for the rehabilitation of an estimated 2 million children working in hazardous occupations. By the end of April 1996, 76 child labour projects had been sanctioned for the rehabilitation of around 1.5 lakh children working in hazardous occupations. These child labour projects are located in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. A major activity undertaken under the child labour projects is the establishment of special schools to provide non-formal education, vocational training, supplementary nutrition etc. to children withdrawn from employment. According to the information received so far, 1810 special schools have been set up covering about 1.04 lakh children. Most of these schools have opened after April 1996. Funds have been sanctioned for carrying out survey on child labour in 123 districts and for awareness generation against the evil of child labour in 133 districts. The Supreme Court of India, in its judgement dated 10.12.96, has also given certain directions regarding the manner in which the children working in the hazardous occupations are to be withdrawn from work